(vii) Provision of centralised fault booking services at all SDCC level.

(viii) More and more RLUs are inducted in the network to reduce the cable length.

(ix) Replacement of existing transmission media by OFC.

Unused Telecom Equipments

1933. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government purchased telecom equipments worth rupees more than 100 crore which is lying unused;

(b) whether the orders were placed without any justification and faulty equipments were purchased and no quality test was conducted;

(c) whether the directions issued by the PM Office and Sanchar Bhawan for stopping the purchases, were set at naught for nearly one year;

(d) whether various circles have made irregular payments as advance or annual maintenance contracts and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the names of the companies which have benefited and whether any responsibility was fixed and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Generally the equipment is procured annually and utilised progressively throughout the year. However, some of the equipment remained unused due to faulty equipments, obsolete technology, diversion to other units.

(b) The equipments are purchased on the forecast of the requirement and justification. Equipments are despatched to consignee only after quality testing.

(c) The directions from PM Office were issued to stop the procurement of MARR equipment. Accordingly all the suppliers were issued short closure notice of their purchase order. M/s Indian Telephone Industries Purchase Order was also short closed during the currency of original delivery schedule. Due to requirement of 128 terminals of MARR systems for Madhya Pradesh and Assam and also to fulfil contractual obligation M/s Indian Telephone Industries being a public sector

undertaking of Department of Telecommunications was allowed to supply the above equipment as per decision of Telecom Commission as Non-supply also would have resulted in loss to Department of Telecommunications.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Functioning of Internet Exchanges

1934. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country's first internet exchange has started functioning, but no internet service provider has joined it, till date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are reconsidering to establish other three exchanges;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to attract internet service providers to join the internet exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir. Several Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have agreed to join the Internet Exchange Point (IXP) at Noida.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It has been decided to collocate these IXPs at the premises of the Software Technology Park of India at Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

(e) Does not arise.